

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OES-03

OTPE-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

NASA-01 /071 W

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R 100930Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4551

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, TGEN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF ATS-6 SATELLITE TO GOI

1. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY W.N. CHADHA, PRESIDENT OF ANATRONIC GENERAL CORP. CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE SALE OF THE ATS-6 BACKUP SATELLITE TO THE GOI. CHADHA IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARTIN MARIETTA, THE COMPANY WHICH BUILT THE LAUNCH FACILITY FOR THE ATS-6 SATELLITE BEING USED FOR THE SITE PROGRAM.

2. ACCORDING TO CHADHA OUR TURNDOWN OF THE GOI REQUEST FOR THE USE AFTER AUGUST OF THE ATS-6 NOW IN ORBIT HAS PROMPTED NASA TO AGREE TO SELL THE BACKUP SATELLITE TO THE GOI. HE HAS A TELEGRAM FROM MARTIN MARIETTA, WHICH HE SHOWED US, SAYING THAT NASA WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN OFFER TO THE GOI THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

3. CHADHA CLAIMS THAT NASA WOULD OFFER THE BACKUP SATELLITE FOR *44 MILLION WHICH INCLUDES THE LAUNCH AND A SIX MONTH GUARANTEE. IF AN AGREEMENT WERE SIGNED SOON THE SATELLITE COULD BE IN ORBIT BY JUNE 1977. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY CHADHA STATED HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE GOI EXPECTED ANY USG FINANCING BUTHE
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HEDGED ON WHETHER NEXT YEAR'S GOI BUDGET PROVIDED FOR THE

SATELLITE, SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE FUNDS COULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM WHATEVER WAS EARMARKED FOR A TERRESTRIAL SYSTEM.

4. CHADHA SAID THAT A STUDY HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE ELECTRONICS COMMISSION CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE SITE PROGRAM IN INDIA. THE THRUST OF THE STUDY IS THAT IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOMICAL TO CONTINUE TO USE A SATELLITE RATHER THAN A TERRESTRIAL SYSTEM FOR SITE AS WELL AS OTHER COMMUNICATIONS. WHILE THIS MAY BE THE VIEW OF THE COMMISSION, WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN IT IS NOT YET A FORMAL GOI POSITION.

5. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO THE COMMERCIAL SALE TO THE GOI OF THE BACKUP SATELLITE OR OF THE SATELLITE NOW IN ORBIT IF IT IS NOT COMMITTED ELSEWHERE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF NASA, IN FACT, WISHES TO OFFER THE SATELLITE FOR SALE, AND AT WHAT TERMS.
SAXBE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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